

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /039 W

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O P 290700Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6797

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0498

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: HAWK FINANCING

REF: AMMAN 0497 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME LATE EVENING JANUARY 28. SAID KING HAS BEEN CALLED BY PRINCE FAHD. FAHD TOLD KING THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER IN TWO OR THREE DAYS TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF HAWK FUNDING WITH JORDANIANS. RIFAI TAKES THIS AS A POSITIVE MOVE.

2. RIFAI ASKED THAT WE DO ALL POSSIBLE TO AVOID TAKING ANY ACTION CUTTING OFF HAWK DEAL UNTIL THEY CAN TALK WITH SAUDI FINANCE MINISTER. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THIS STEP IMMEDIATELY AND REPEAT HIS PLEA FOR A STAY OF EXECUTION ON THE CANCELLATION OF THE HAWK ARRANGEMENTS.

3. HE ALSO ASKED THAT I BE IN A POSITION SOON TO GIVE HIM SOME MORE BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION ABOUT WHY FUNDS REQUIRED NOW AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE DEAL IF SAUDIS NOT FORTHCOMING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE HOPES TO BE IN POSITION TO MAKE CONVINCING CASE TO SAUDIS.

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4. APPARENTLY THIS LATEST SAUDI MOVE OVERTAKES FOR NOW NECESSITY

FOR ANY US DISCUSSIONS IN JIDDA OR PASSING OF INFORMATION THERE.
IT ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE OVERTAKEN NEED FOR RIFAI TO TRAVEL TO
SAUDI ARABIA FEBRUARY 1 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

5. EMBASSY APPRECIATES JIDDA'S VIEWS (JIDDA 0638) AND WOULD LIKE
TO DRAW ON THEM IN BRIEFING RIFAI PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH
SAUDIS. JORDANIANS CONTINUING TO PRESS SAUDIS WITHIN CONSTRAINTS
OF NOT APPEARING TO GIVE THEM EXCUSE TO BACK OUT OF DEAL AND HOPE
WE WILL BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THEM WITH MORE INFORMATION IN AMMAN.

6. COMMENT: THIS SEEMS TO BE FIRST REAL SAUDI BREAK BEYOND THE
REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE WHICH THEY HAVE
RECEIVED IN PAST. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY JIDDA
ASSESSMENT ABOVE DEVELOPMENT AND ANYTHING THEY CAN PROVIDE US ON
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND HIS POWERS OF DECISION AND IMPLEMENTATION
IN CASES OF THIS SORT, INCLUDING WHETHER WE MIGHT URGE RIFIA,
FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONTINUE TO THINK ABOUT GOING HIMSELF TO SAUDI
ARABIA FEBRUARY 1 TO WIND UP DEAL IF MINISTER OF FINANCE DOES
NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO DO SO ON THE SPOT. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) FURTHER INFORMATION ON REASONS WHY
MONEY HAS TO BE PAID IMMEDIATELY FOR RIFAI TO USE WITH SAUDIS;
(2) IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, REASONABLE STAY OF EXECUTION ON CUT OFF
SO THAT SAUDIS WILL CONTINUE TO FEEL UNDER THE GUN BUT NOT FACED
BY AN ULTIMATUM; (3) ANY FURTHER INFORMATION EMBASSY JIDDA CAN
OFFER ON MINISTER OF FINANCE AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE
JORDANIAN TACTICS, INCLUDING THE WISDOM OF OR NEED FOR A FOLLOW
UP VISIT BY RIFAI.

8. STATE 021973 JUST RECEIVED HERE WHICH WILL BE MOST HELPFUL
IN EXPLAINING NATURE OF PROBLEM.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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